

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 339 without my signature.

While I support ensuring parents are not taken advantage of in securing child support payments, this bill will have the effect of severely limiting a consumer's choice to go to a private collection agency when government efforts to collect the owed child support falter.

Private child support collection agencies are valuable participants along with government efforts to collect child support and offer consumers a choice. I welcome many of the provisions in this bill that would ensure families are protected when they choose to contract with a private agency; however the provisions such as capping the amount a collection agency can charge and prohibiting a person from contracting with a private collection agency when they have received partial payment in the last six months are particularly onerous to the industry and to parents seeking choices. Federal review of the subject, as well as the California Performance Review, have identified the need for private agencies in child support collections.

For these reasons I am unable to support this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger